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9 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre-trip Briefing on the Middle East for House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) Staffers

1. On 9 October 1984, House Foreign Affairs Committee staffers Mike Van Dusen, Allison Fortier, George Berdes, and Chris Kojm were given a pre-trip briefing on North and South Yemen, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Cyprus by Directorate of Intelligence analysts [redacted]

[redacted] The briefing took place in 4B42 Headquarters from 1000 to 1200. [redacted]

2. The briefing began with an overview of the situation in North and South Yemen. [redacted] discussed the political/economic impact of oil discoveries, and the countries' relations with Saudi Arabia, the USSR, and the US. He downplayed the prospect of uniting the two Yemens but emphasized the significant changes taking place in those countries and the region. [redacted] gave high marks to the accomplishments of Egyptian President Mubarak since his election in October 1981. She also focused on the political impact of recent bread riots and the difficult problem of reducing government subsidies given Egypt's rising problems of overcrowding and unemployment. Egyptian foreign policy was covered, particularly the problem of Sudan, the improved relationship with Jordan, and difficulties in establishing a better working climate with the new government in Israel.

3. The newly elected unity government in Israel was discussed, including the shaky prospects for cooperation between Prime Minister Peres and Vice Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Shamir. [redacted] did not pose much optimism for positive developments with regard to the Palestinian problem or, in fact, for the durability of the present coalition government. With regard to Jordan, two main themes were explored: King Hussein's deepening relations with the USSR and Jordan's domestic concerns about growing unemployment.

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4. The Greek/Turkish dispute over Cyprus was covered in detail by [redacted] They presented the current situation with regard to UN-sponsored negotiations and the dismal outlook for an early peaceful settlement. They also discussed the impact of the Cyprus problem on Greek domestic politics, and raised the possibility that the introduction of new Greek air defense systems on Cyprus may heighten the chances for a new outbreak of hostilities next year. [redacted]

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5. The briefing ended without any follow-up requests from the Committee staffers. [redacted]

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Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

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Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

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